Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

EPHEMERIS FOR GREENWICH—MIDNIGHT.

1893.	App. α.			App. δ.			log. Δ
	h.	m.	s.	°	′	″	
April 3.5	3	28	10.5	+36	17	36	0.54929
7.5	3	35	33.9	36	27	58	0.55565
11.5	3	42	59.5	36	37	55	0.56174
15.5	3	50	26.7	36	47	25	0.56757
19.5	3	57	55.5	36	56	24	0.57314
23.5	4	5	25.4	+37	4	51	0.57846

(Reprinted from the *Astronomical Journal*, No. 292.)

THE SPECTRUM OF HOLMES' COMET.

The nature of the spectrum of Comet HOLMES has an important bearing upon the question of the origin of that strange object, and I wish to present in detail my reasons for saying with confidence that "underlying the continuous spectrum there is certainly a trace of the green band."

On November 8 and 9, when the most condensed portions of the comet were in the slit, there was seen to be a very slight maximum of light at about λ 515, but it was so slight that the micrometer wire could not be set on it with accuracy. But when the bright parts were thrown out of the slit and the diffuse eastern edge brought in, the contrast between the continuous spectrum and the maximum spoken of above was unmistakable. On November 9 Mr. TOWNLEY assisted me. He had never seen a comet spectrum before, and had no practical knowledge of where the usual cometary bands lie. I requested him to examine the continuous spectrum (of the eastern edge of the comet) from one end to the other; and if he saw any region surely brighter than the regions just above and below, to set the very heavy wire of the micrometer upon it. He did so almost instantly. I then narrowed the slit, threw in the magnesium comparison spark $(b_1 - b_4)$ and noted the position of the wire. Twice more I asked him to set the wire on the maximum, and I compared his settings as before with the magnesium lines. Without any knowledge on his part of where the green band usually falls, or of how his settings compared with the magnesium lines, *his three settings all fell between λ 516 and λ 514.* We were both confident, also, that the maximum was more sharply defined on the red side than on the violet.

I examined the spectrum on November 24, at which time the comet had become much more diffuse. All parts of the comet gave a continuous spectrum and a trace of the green band, wave length about 516. As before, the band was most noticeable in the spectrum of the fainter regions of the comet. W. W. C.

THE NEW DUDLEY OBSERVATORY AT ALBANY, NEW YORK.

Letters received from Professor BOSS, the Director of the DUDLEY Observatory, and an excellent press-telegram in the New York *Tribune* of September 24, 1892, give some account of the new DUDLEY Observatory buildings and equipment The accompanying cut is from the *Tribune* article.

The DUDLEY Observatory was originally founded in 1857, by gifts from citizens of Albany. $105,000 were given by the widow of CHARLES DUDLEY of Albany and $80,000 by other persons. The observatory was built under the direction of Dr. B. A. GOULD. Difficulties with the Trustees prevented the first Director from carrying out the plans at Albany which he afterwards adopted for his survey of the Southern Sky at Cordoba. (See *Publications A. S. P.*, Vol. IV, page 25.) Dr. GOULD was succeeded by Professors BRÜNNOW and MITCHELL, and finally by Professor HOUGH, now of the DEARBORN Observatory at Evanston, Illinois. Two volumes of observations, etc., were published by the observatory during the administrations of these gentlemen. Professor BOSS was appointed to be Director in 1876. The income of the observatory was very small, but a special fund of $2700 was subscribed to provide for paying computers and copyists, and with this small sum Professor BOSS undertook to observe one of the zones of the *Astronomische Gesellschaft* containing 8243 stars of the 9th–10th magnitude or brighter lying between 1° and 5° of North Declination. The observations were made during the years 1878-1882, the computations practically finished in 1884, and the final catalogue in 1887. This very important work is a model for publications of its class. Professor BOSS's chosen work is the determination of fundamental places of standard stars. For this purpose it is above all necessary to have a suitable meridian-circle mounted in a site free from disturbances by railway trains, etc., etc. The N. Y. Central R. R. tracks are very near to the old observatory, and it was determined (in 1891) to exchange the former site for a new one which should be free from this and other objections. This exchange was effected, and a sum of $15,000 gained in this way: Miss CATHERINE